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McFadden's returns page 4 Welcome to the team, Ivy page 5 Turtle talk page 14

Local grocery store fights back on food prices

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

With the cost of food prices skyrocketing, any offerings of reprieve can be welcome.

And one local grocery store is finding ways to offer affordability while cutting down on food waste.

Haliburton's Todd's Independent Grocer began using the program Flashfood on Tuesday, April 14. "It's brand new to us," said the assistant manager of the store, Tanya Titus. "We're all just learning about it now, but it's going to do well for families. Money is tight, and any little bit you can save is better."

Flashfood is an app that can be downloaded to your phone or tablet, which allows you to see participating stores. Once a store is selected, there are specific boxes that can be purchased for $5, with enough food for multiple meals and family members.

Lisa Barry has been using the program since it started locally. "It's such a wonderful idea for our town," she said. "I'm sure it has helped so many families already."

The boxes vary between produce, baked goods, and meats. Titus noted that their store is also participating in "from fresh to frozen" offerings, where some products are reaching their best before date, so the store freezes them safely to increase longevity.

The boxes are stocked with items that Titus shared are perfectly fine to eat, but perhaps not as visually pleasing, with some bumps and bruises from transport or age. While historically these products were placed on a sale rack, Titus noted that they were often overlooked and would need to be tossed when not purchased. "We're trying to cut back on waste as much as we can," she said. "That's a big reason for us to do this."

"It's not just fruits and vegetables," explained Barry. "You have to watch the app as they have meats and cheeses as well. The meats aren't five dollars, but they're still remarkable prices ... we need to get more families involved in the program."

Flashfood boxes are also available nearby in Bancroft, Bobcaygeon, Gravenhurst, and Huntsville. When you have access to the app, the program will tell you where participating stores are located across North America.

Flashfood was founded in 2016 in Canada, and according to Esther Cohn, the vice president of communications and public affairs for the organization, the environment was top of mind in the early days. "It was really founded to limit food waste at grocery stores," she said during a recent phone interview. "At a retail level, this really should be a problem we can solve."

The app started rolling out across the country in 2017, with a national partnership with the Loblaws business group carrying their presence into the United States. Currently there are over 2,000 participating stores across North American, with Cohn hoping to

see FOOD page 13

Sweet as honey
The Haliburton Legion hosted the annual Wild Honey Hoedown on Sunday in support of the Johnny Burke Foundation. For more photos, see more photos inside this edition.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

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New HHHS CAO comes home

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

There's a new face leading the charge at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), but some may recognize him from around town.

Jack Hutchison is a Haliburton County local, who grew up in Minden and graduated Haliburton Highlands Secondary School a number of years ago.

After leaving the community to attend post-secondary, Hutchison held a variety of health system leadership roles, most recently as a Chief Operating Officer, supporting a broad portfolio including corporate services, people and culture, and information management. He's also worked closely on capital redevelopment and system planning across the province, with a passion for rural healthcare on the forefront.

But when the position became available for the president and CEO of HHHS, Hutchison knew it was time to move back home. "I truly believe that in roles like this, and those of our frontline staff, that when you work in a smaller community, and if you're from there, you really are serving the community," he said. "You're not just caring for patients, you're caring for your family, friends, and neighbours, and that brings a special sense of purpose and drive."

Hutchison returned to the community with his wife, Victoria, and their two young kids earlier this year. He officially started in his role with HHHS on March 30, and has immediately hit the ground running. "I am passionate about rural and remote healthcare," he said, "breaking down barriers, increasing access, building pathways for our patients and making a positive difference for our community."

He noted that while he has big visions for the organization, he isn't starting from scratch. The role was previously held by Jennifer Burns-West as the interim president, when Veronica Nelson, who was instrumental in navigating the community outcry during the closure of the Minden ER in 2023, began work at Ross Memorial Hospital. "This organization has made great strides over the past few years, and has great momentum, so we want to build on that," said the new president.

Hutchison shared that the two former presidents laid the groundwork for the direction the organization is headed, and staff were quick to welcome his additions to the vision ahead. "I've felt very welcome here," he said, "right from day one."

In terms of looking ahead, Hutchison noted that management are nearing their end of their three-year strategic plan. "I see HHHS continuing to be a cornerstone of this community," he said, "providing high-quality, compassionate care close to home. I also see an organization that continues to grow thoughtfully, embraces innovation, and remains deeply connected to the people it serves. Most importantly, I see a team that continues to take pride in their work and in one another."

Through listening, learning, and finding ways to fill in the gaps, Hutchison is confident that he can lead the team at local sites. "Success in rural healthcare is about access, quality, and trust," he said. "It's about ensuring people can receive the care they need, close to home, delivered by teams they know and trust. It's also about the experience - how people feel when they walk through our doors, and how supported our staff feel in delivering that care."

While the province continues to navigate challenges around healthcare funding, Hutchison believes in the community that raised him, and feels dedicated to giving back. "I truly believe that your address should not dictate your access to high quality healthcare services," he said. "So (we) will be breaking down those barriers, and continuing to develop partnerships that bring access to services for our community."

Jack Hutchison has stepped into the role of president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services as of March 30. He has big visions for the future of the orgzanization. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Muskoka hospitals seek financial help from County

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Healthcare is top of mind for all Ontario residents, and with the two new hospitals being built by our neighbours in Muskoka, questions have been circulating around what that may mean for local healthcare.

During a regular meeting of County council last Wednesday, representatives from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) presented a delegation to local councillors. Cheryl Harrison, the president and CEO of the organization was joined by Dave Uffelmann, board chair, seeking support from local councillors for the two different sites.

"Let me be clear," opened Uffelmann, "most of the people in Haliburton County do not use our hospitals. However, a significant portion of the residents of Algonquin Highlands township do use our hospitals. In fact, most of the residents of two of the wards in that township exclusively use our hospital."

Uffelmann noted the "old and outdated" buildings they are working with, including limited or no sprinkler coverage, with an overall condition rated as 'poor'.

"Patients shouldn't have to wait for hours on a stretcher in a hallway before being admitted," said Uffelmann. "Hospitals should ideally operate at 85 per cent of capacity."

The chair noted that their hospitals are consistently over that suggested capacity. "Space limitations mean we can't expand further."

With these considerations in mind, Uffelmann noted the progress made for the two new hospitals: one in Huntsville, a new build on existing land, and one in Bracebridge, a new build on new land. "We are expecting the approval literally any day at this point." Together, the new sites will offer over 90 per cent single-patient rooms, with a total of 157 beds.

"Strong emergency departments are one of the most important services needed by your constituents," said Uffelmann.

The project comes with a price tag of $1 billion, with the provincial government offering "the better part" of the cost, said Uffelmann. But taxpayers and donors need to raise approximately a quarter of the total in order to unlock access to the provincial funds.

At this point, the District of Muskoka, comprised of six townships, has pledged $77.3 million towards the project. At least one of the townships - Georgian Bay - has no residents who use the hospital sites.

"Please help us to provide the best possible healthcare for your residents who do rely on MAHC," said Uffelmann. "People from elsewhere in Muskoka ... have asked why Algonquin Highlands isn't on the list of contributors. Similarly, a number of your residents who support MAHC through personal donations have shown surprise that their local government hasn't yet stepped up."

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen responded to the delegation. "This is a subject as the mayor of Algonquin Highlands that I really do struggle with," she said. "It is to me a challenge for all of us, that municipalities are having to pay into systems that are the responsibility of the province. We here in Haliburton County have suffered some losses, particularly in the Minden area."

Danielsen noted that the local healthcare system does service individuals from outside the county as well. "I'm not sure what the solution is or what we can do to help. We're already overstretched in many, many ways in respect to our taxation," she said.

Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor for Algonquin Highlands, shared that she and her family exclusively use the Muskoka medical sites, despite paying taxes to the Haliburton locations. "It does support a hospital system," she said. "And the ultimate provincial hope is that it does balance out in the end."

"It's an issue," said Councillor Murray Fearrey from Dysart. "I don't know how to resolve it. Certainly, we all want to help, but it's just figuring out what we can do and what we can't do." Fearrey added that many residents from Highlands East utilize services in Hastings, while other locals go to Lindsay and Peterborough for their healthcare needs.

The delegation was received as information, with Uffelmann adding that their organization would return with additional data to assist with the overall analysis of the local costs.

Minden works towards recovery

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

After a tense few weeks, the Township of Minden Hills took a collective deep breath as the waters that had ravaged the community began to recede late last week.

"The respite from the rain and the colder temperatures means that we are not getting additional water into the lakes to the north," said Minden Mayor Bob Carter last Wednesday. "It will probably take a week or so days to bring down lake levels. In that time, you will see water levels on the Gull River go up and down, but they will remain below flood levels."

It was noted that thanks to volunteer efforts, the community currently has an excess of sandbags, which were sent to Bracebridge, Oro-Medonte, and Ramara to support their ongoing community challenges. The plan for sandbag disposal will be launched early this week, alongside a community clean-up, to handle the remaining sandbags around Minden.

On Wednesday of last week, the township worked with an engineering firm to confirm the safety and structural integrity of the Sunnybrook Bridge that runs along Bobcaygeon Road, and the Logger's Pedestrian Bridge across the Gull River. "As most of you know by now, we were able to get successful assessments of our two bridges in Minden on Wednesday, and we were able to safely reopen the bridges," confirmed Carter. "Road crews are out examining our roads, culverts and bridges throughout the township to assess post flood damages."

Once the bridges were re-opened, the Evacuation Centre at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena was transitioned to a Warming Centre. "That means we can release the Salvation Army folks and the Ontario Corps to return to their homes and make ready for their next deployments," said Carter. "It also means that we can start to return to normal and get our usual programming up and running."

Last Monday, the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Jill Dunlop and local MPP Laurie Scott visited Minden to assess the damages of the community. "They were able to meet with many volunteers and were impressed by their spirit and hard work," noted Carter.

"Once again, thank you everybody. More formal and complete thanks will be forthcoming. For now, we complete our tasks in dealing with the flood, as we plan and execute the clean up to get Minden ready for the summer."

While the State of Emergency is ongoing at the time of press, further updates will be shared on the newspaper websites as they become available.

Climate change concerns brought to council table

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

As the waters continue to recede in Minden Hills, talk of severe weather events came to the County council table last week. Julie Bromley, the manager of emergency services and healthy environments for Lakelands Public Health, joined the meeting to present on protecting health in climate change.

Between floods, extreme heat, and ice storms, the County has been putting an effort into recognizing the challenges with ongoing weather changes. "The health impacts of climate change are not often looked at," opened Bromley. "But public health has a role in drawing attention to the climate-health connection."

"When it comes to climate change, that's something that's happening now, right before our eyes," said Bromley. "We've seen intense weather events. You regularly experience the strain on local infrastructure."

Bromley shared that climate change in Haliburton County includes extreme or prolonged heat events, sudden cold, ice storms, extended power outages, wildfire smoke and poor air quality, and floods.

While climate change may seem gradual, Bromley urged that it is ongoing and present in our communities. In regards to heat and humidex, the number of days over 30 degrees Celsius each summer has steadily increased. "Heat has serious impacts to health and well being," she said, referencing a heat event in British Columbia in 2021, where over 600 individuals died from heat exposure. "Many were older adults who died in their own homes," she said.

On the flip side, the cold also continues to be a risk. "Not everyone in our communities has the same abilities or resources to cope with cold weather," said Bromley. Risks include carbon monoxide poisoning, energy poverty, and infrastructure damage.

Bromley noted that the risk is not solely on the hazard, but also the vulnerability associated with the incident. "Vulnerability increases when someone has increased exposure, sensitivity, or a reduced ability to take adaptive actions," she explained.

"The good news is that there is hope with climate adaptation," said Bromley. "Local municipalities play a central role in climate adaptation. Actions taken can all contribute to fostering social connections."

One of the key adaptation examples that Bromley provided was warming, cooling, and clean air centres. She noted that these facilities can offer an opportunity to reduce demand on emergency services during extreme temperature events, provide safety during power outages, support isolated residents, and strengthen community trust.

"Resilience is strongest when public health and municipalities move in the same direction," closed Bromley. "My conversation today isn't about starting from scratch, it's about strengthening what already exists … At the end of the day, leadership and resilience are built locally."

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McFadden's stretches out

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Mike McFadden stands behind the meat counter at McFadden's Meat Market. He welcomed his faithful customers back to his newly renovated shop on Monday, April 20. /THOMAS SMITH staff

As you walk into McFadden's Meat Market, you are greeted by a spectacular display of any cut of meat you can think of.

For owner Mike McFadden, words cannot describe the beauty of fresh beef.

Behind the counter, a large cutting space invites you to watch the dance of preparing ingredients. Striving for the highest quality of meat and with decades of skill, McFadden has nothing to hide in how he prepares his product.

Turning left, wall to wall freezers offer selections that tickle the imagination, from kebabs to exotic meats like alligator and venison.

Living in Haliburton was a dream come true for Mike McFadden. Growing up, he would visit his grandparents' cottage every summer.

In 2000, one visit to Haliburton became a permanent stay. Soon after, he was offered a job working in a meat department and scrubbing dishes. Working in the meat room, McFadden was able to showcase his talents in grinding burger and trimming roasts.

"As the years went on, I ended up becoming meat manager," said McFadden.

Through the years, McFadden worked at the Independent and Foodland, learning more about the meat industry along his life's journey. One of his most valuable was working with Chad at West Guilford during hunting season who taught him how to break down animals properly.

"As the years went on, I decided I wanted to do it for myself," he said.

McFadden's passion and knowledge for meat brought followers who would support him anywhere he went.

Throughout his career, McFadden has learned from the best and most seasoned butchers.

"You won't be able to be the best if you can't take someone else's knowledge too," he said.

Visiting other shops he respects, one thing was apparent to him: walkability is key for customers to make the best decisions for their food.

With his seasoned advice for preparing meat, the only thing left to the customers is cooking it.

McFadden enjoys nothing more than explaining to customers how to best prepare his products. A part of his soul goes into every sale. If a customer is not satisfied, he is committed to making things right.

"How you treat your customers is what matters for any successful business," he said.

Setting his roots beside the former Beer Store on Hops Drive, McFadden found the perfect location to start his small business.

"As the years went on, we began to outgrow the space," he reflected.

Once the neighbouring space became available, McFadden was quick to jump at the opportunity to expand his store an additional 1,000 square feet.

It has taken a village to complete the renovations, which began in December of last year, and had their official re-opening just last week.

With local contractors, his wife and his team, he could not have done it without the support of the community around him.

"I really enjoy talking to people, explaining traceability, where things come from and how things can be prepared," he said.

"We have a good following, friends, family, and support," said McFadden. "It was the years of doing businesses with the Independent and Foodland that helped me be successful."

McFadden strives to not only use local talent in improving his business, but offers local nonperishable products like honey and preservatives whenever he can. With every town having their own producers, he uses his own retail space to provide more exposure for locally manufactured goods.

Beyond meat, McFadden's is the perfect stop for quality sauces, ready to eat entrees, and pickles to go with your latest culinary creations.

McFadden's Meat Market is located at 23 Hops Drive in Haliburton and open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

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• Station 80, 1123 North Shore Road, Stanhope
Dysart et al
• Dysart Fire Dept & Paramedic Base, South Street (behind arena)
Highlands East
• Highlands East Fire Department Station 4, 2259 Loop Road, Wilberforce
Minden Hills
• Minden Hills Parademic Base and Fire Dept, 12418, Hwy 35, Minden
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County approved for federal funding around mental health

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

"What you're seeing today is a significant achievement for the County, and also for the local municipalities," opened Haliburton County CAO Gary Dyke when introducing Michael Slatter, chief paramedic, and Sue Tiffin, the director of community outreach.

During the April 22 regular meeting of County council, Slatter and Tiffin announced that they were successful in their application for funding from Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund.

"Canada is facing a public health crisis that has left no community untouched," reads the staff report. "This crisis has been driven by a complex set of factors, including a dangerous, illegal synthetic drug supply. The tragic impacts are seen and felt among our friends, our families, and our neighbours."

Staff shared that they had received $1,176,390 to enhance their current outreach program, including a custom van, safety equipment, medical supplies, and staffing support and training during the fiscal year of 2026-2027. To continue the program after 2027, the County will be responsible for funding in the form of ongoing staff support and vehicle maintenance.

"I wish that we had some costs that we could offset in taking this into the future," said Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills. "But the fact is, we've had this unmet need with both drugs and mental health, so I think that this is going to be money well spent, and money that needs to be spent to protect our community."

Slatter noted that the program would work in conjunction with the paramedic department. "The idea is that we'll still continue with the clinics that are run regularly throughout the county," he said. "But we'll add a mobile component … seven days a week to reach the vulnerable populations throughout the county as a whole."

Over 400 submissions were made to the federal government to access the funding, with the County of Haliburton being one of ten that were approved. "It was pretty exciting," said Slatter. "We're looking forward to developing the program."

Dream come true for newest reporter

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Hello Haliburton! I am thrilled to have found myself in my dream job as a staff reporter - with the most welcoming and talented team at the *Echo*, *Minden Times*, and *County Life*.

I have been coming up to Haliburton since the very beginning of my existence, although I did not live here full time. Despite being far away from retirement, I always knew I would probably retire up here one day. Well, that one day came much sooner than anticipated. This place is where my heart has always been. My father had been living up here full time for 25 years, and it was his dementia that started bringing me up for longer and extremely frequent trips since 2019. In this process, I started exploring working here, and considered relocating from Toronto, to be closer as his caregiver. This was when I started to really get to know the incredible locals who make up this very special place.

Prior to living here, I have been involved in the arts for 20 years, as a writer, event-coordinator, speaker, editor, writing coach, promotor, publisher, and more. I ran an awards-nominated art magazine that was designed to bring people to the arts and was geared towards the 55+ demographic, and was featured on *Global News's The Morning Show* just before the pandemic hit. In fact, most of my work has somehow always connected to the Baby Boomer population. Somehow, it is the generation I click with the most. The magazine branched out into a show I hosted and produced for two seasons, from 2018 to 2020, which focused on illustrating how the arts informs every element of our socio-political lives. The show was wrapped up on a high-point with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hold my BA (Honours) and am specialized in English Literature and Linguistics and German Studies was my major. I have written freelance articles and reviews on luxury destinations, cuisine, and theatre.

In 2016, I spent two months living with the Inuit while researching their housing and food situation, where I spoke in the schools on the value of education, and hunted Caribou in the remote fly-in community of Naujaat, formerly known as Repulse Bay.

In late 2021, my first full-length poetry collection launched. I am currently working on a novel. When I'm not reading or writing, you will generally find me hiking, running, or collecting firewood. I look forward to meeting more and more of you in Haliburton!

Celebrating first responders on May 1

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

A proclamation was brought to the table during last Wednesday's regular meeting of County council, celebrating some unsung heroes of the community. Warden Dave Burton announced that May 1, 2026, would officially be recognized as First Responder's Day in Haliburton.

An annual day of recognition, the origins of the day date back to 2013, when the provincial government announced it would be celebrated across Ontario. On the date, extra gratitude is directed towards those who deal with emergency situations, including but not limited to police officers, firefighters, paramedics, military personnel, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers, nurses, doctors, and emergency managers.

Haliburton County is sure to celebrate the event with a number of open houses and activities across the region. On Friday, May 1 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., community members are invited to visit a number of first responder locations. The following locations are open to the public on May 1:

Algonquin Highlands

- Station 60, 1060 Main Street, Dorset
- Station 70, Oxtongue Lake, 3979 ON-60, Dwight
- Station 80, 1123 North Shore Road, Stanhope

Dysart et al

- Dysart Fire Department and Paramedic Base, South Street (behind arena)

Highlands East

- Highlands East Fire Department Station 4, 2259 Loop Road, Wilberforce

Minden Hills

- Minden Hills Paramedic Base and Fire Department, 12418, Hwy 35, Minden

Right, Scottie Spooner tries out a police car during last year's First Responder's Day. /FILE

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Drowning

I'LL GIVE our County councillors credit for staying calm, cool, and collected when representatives from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) came with an ask for financial support last week.

With plans of building two new and improved medical sites in the neighbouring communities, representatives from the organization approached our local councillors, noting that constituents within our borders are regulars at the Muskoka sites.

Crossing boundaries for healthcare is nothing new. All of us, at some point or another, have had to leave town for appointments in Peterborough, Lindsay, or Toronto. Yes, some go to Muskoka. And I am sure others from out of town occasionally come here.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

But the part of the presentation that put my back up, was when the board chair of MAHC, Dave Uffelmann, said: "People from elsewhere in Muskoka ... have asked why Algonquin Highlands isn't on the list of contributors. Similarly, a number of your residents who support MAHC through personal donations have shown surprise that their local government hasn't yet stepped up."

Oof. I watched the tide of tensions change when he said that to the room of County councillors; the overall temperatures taking a sudden nosedive.

Telling our poverty-challenged community that we're not giving enough money away is like telling someone who's drowning that they're not swimming fast enough. A punch to the gut, sudden and winding.

The provincial government has promised the project 'the better part' of one billion dollars, noted Uffelmann. But in order to access that funding, the community is on the hook for raising one quarter of the need. And while that amount was not once disclosed during the financial ask to council, it roughly equates to $250,000,000.

That's not pocket change.

Councillor Liz Danielsen of Algonquin Highlands noted that Haliburton County has their own fair share of medical challenges, including the closure of the Minden ER in June of 2023. Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor for Algonquin Highlands, shared that she uses the Muskoka sites, but other individuals from beyond our borders also use our sites, and there's "hope that it all evens out."

When we want to point fingers to who "hasn't stepped up", the first on the list should absolutely be the provincial government.

It was once explained to me (in very simplified terms) that the province is responsible for the buildings, while it's up to fundraisers, donors, and local tax payers to tackle anything that happens inside. This includes physician recruitment, staffing, doctor wages, equipment, mental health support, and any additional programming. While the province provides a roof and a door, the heartbeat of a hospital is brought to you by your community.

And we're just barely treading water.

MAHC's approach to pointing fingers and wondering why we're not involved in their hospital support was the wrong angle. Healthcare across the province is in a state of crisis, and if we break ties and sever bonds across boundaries, we lose momentum in our strength to make things better.

So next time fingers are waved, maybe it's better to look up the ladder to see who's making the calls, instead of drowning those just treading water.

Boys will be boys

GISÈLE PELICOT is the French woman who invited the world into the court room where she was facing down 51 men and their lawyers who were defending themselves from charges of raping her while she was drugged senseless by her husband.

Gisèle's goal in so doing was to survive the ordeal. The strength she acquired and has shared generously with women everywhere is to change the direction of the shame blame: men should be ashamed for raping rather than women being shamed for having been raped.

The question left hanging in the air is why it has taken so long and been so hard to make that shift. What lies beneath?

Pelicot's memoir, *A Hymn to Life,* is pre-occupied with that question. She sifts through her entire life, including the fifty years she lived with her rapist husband under the impression that theirs was a loving and fairly well-functioning relationship, to understand her sustained naivety. She unpacks her husband's life to begin to understand how he developed and lived two distinct lives, literally under her unsuspecting nose.

Poke, Peel

Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

Even though I tend to be psychoanalytical in my perspective on humanity, the slings and arrows of their respective lives do not adequately explain, for me, the rot at the heart of their relationship. Clearly Dominique, her husband, was fatally injured by his father's cruelty and the failure of others to recognize or challenge it. Evidently (eventually it became evident), Gisèle took refuge in unfinished childhood grieving to see unconditional love, aka 'mother love', as the solution to all life's challenges. As the court case wended its four-year journey to and through the courts, she falls in love – again: absolutely she was madly in love with Dominique when they got together as very young adults – with a new man, Jean-Loup, and negotiates a more reciprocal relationship.

So maybe those childhood beginnings, Dominique relentlessly bullied by an angry father, Gisèle losing at age nine a loving mother who is replaced by a harsh and critical step-mother, begin to explain their marital relationship, where she reproduces her perception of her mother's model of motherhood and wifehood, and he is the kind and supportive father/husband she thinks her father was.

It explains Dominique's bent toward dominating women sexually – his father's marital model – but it does not explain his intent and capacity to recruit 50 identified men and maybe half again as many who could not be identified and brought to justice who thought it was a good idea to rape a comatose woman in whatever way their fantasies suggested. And the countless people, presumably men, who vicariously shared their fantasies via the videos Dominique took of the men at lust and shared generously on the internet.

It also does not explain how ten years of medical investigation of gynecological problems, memory loss, injuries to mouth and rectum, other inexplicable physical symptoms, were never hypothesized as rough sex, if not rape.

The crack in the curtain that allows us to glimpse the magnitude of the evil, and its nature, is when Gisèle unambiguously, crisply, unapologetically severs a relationship with Pascale, her work companion and confidante, her best friend, when Pascale advises Gisèle to keep an eye on Dominique because he was sexually suggestive to her. This clarity, in a relationship that accommodated Gisèle having an affair, Dominique living with another woman while he punishes her for her 'mistake', suggests that the monster behind the curtain is patriarchy. An unshakeable, maybe desperate, belief that men take care of their women, that a loving husband-father would not harm their dependent women by poaching their best friend. (Or children: the ghost of incest is everywhere in the book.) A belief so fundamental to believing how the world works that it cannot be questioned, even mildly.

It seems irresponsibly reductive to put the evils of this story at the feet of patriarchy. But I cannot find a better explanation.

What comes to my mind is the way in which 'boys will be boys' is interred (buried deep within) our culture. We say it to dilute bad behaviour, to subtract agency from activity. They know not what they do. In fact, they're just doing what there is implicit permission to do, even as the behaviour is acknowledged as 'bad'. The behaviour is bad but the person who does it cannot be held responsible.

How is that? What undermines the soundness of a mind that neutralizes responsibility for known wrongs? Patriarchy privileges maleness. It gives it special status intended to be interpreted as putting the person above the rules that apply to the lesser.

In Gisèle's case, women.

In the broader world? Women, yes. But also …???

Why does a civilized world need patriarchy? That is the question I am left with.

points of view

You've got to believe

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

I'M GOING to just come out and say it. I am no longer placing all my faith in Santa Claus. To be clear: I'm not disputing he exists or has a sled and magical reindeer – I don't peddle in conspiracy theories. But I do think that maybe Santa Claus has gotten a little too corporate and no longer serves the needs of the little guy. And, by little guy, I'm referring to anyone under five-foot-four.

Before anyone writes a letter to the editor to question my intelligence (again), let me lay out my case.

First, last year, at the mall, one of Santa's "elves" prohibited me from sitting on Santa's lap and went as far as to threaten me with a large candy cane if I took one more step forward. Oh sure, they later apologized and Santa's chief elf even offered me a job, but I didn't accept it. Mostly because I knew I wouldn't get past the second interview since my elvish is terrible.

I'm almost certain I didn't make the nice list because of that incident, since I did not get the Kevlar canoe I wanted. But, after Christmas, in January, when I wrote a letter to the North Pole to ascertain my status on the naughty or nice list and find out what the appeal process looked like, they did not even have the courtesy to send a response.

That's why I made a big decision yesterday and, after some research, decided to give my support to Sinterklaas – the Dutch version of Santa, which many people say is the original Santa Claus anyhow.

Frankly, Sinterklaas makes a lot more sense going forward. First off, he lives in Spain, which if you ask me, is far more sustainable than living in the North Pole these days – what with all the effects of climate change and it being the subject of dispute between Canada, the U.S., China, and Russia.

Secondly – and here's the part that sold me – Sinterklaas delivers gifts in early December, on the night of December 4th in fact. So, if you play your cards right, you can double dip.

Also, Sinterklaas has never kissed anyone's mom in front of credible witnesses.

More importantly, when you pronounce Sinterklaas properly, you immediately sound far more European. Plus, you get to say stroopwafel, which is a bonus word that's associated with the pre-Christmas holiday. And, honestly, I am now finding any excuse to use that word in a sentence.

In any case, I switched my allegiance to Sinterklaas last night, which I formally announced to Jenn at dinner. The great part is, by this morning, I had already reaped the benefits.

You see, I did my laundry yesterday, because I was down to my last pair of clean underwear – and I put the laundered load in the dryer before I went to bed.

When I woke this morning, I started dressing so I could go downstairs and gather my laundry. But, when I opened my dresser to pull out a fresh pair of socks, pants, and tee shirt, a miracle happened. As soon as I picked up the tee shirt, attached to it, by what was hopefully static, was a pair of my underwear.

Many would just say I merely misplaced a pair of clean underwear when I put away my laundry last week. But I prefer to believe the more plausible explanation that it was an early gift from Sinterklaas.

Now, does anyone have a good recipe for stroopwafel?

pic *of the* past

This week's photo was submitted by Wes Lytle, who collected a handful of old photos from a local yard sale. He believes this picture of downtown Minden is from the late 1940s, early 1950s, based on the style of vehicles captured. /submitted

Hope with wings

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

FOR MORE than thirty years, we have been feeding the birds outside our window. What began as a simple act - scattering seed, hanging a feeder, noticing who might come - has become a quiet thread woven through the seasons of our lives. Year after year, winter after winter, they return. And this past winter, more than ever, I understood just how much their presence matters.

It was a long winter that felt both magical and unrelenting. As a caregiver, my days were full - quiet, watchful, and shaped by regular responsibility. The snow was deep, the nights were long, and the stillness sometimes felt heavy. And yet, just beyond my living room window, there was movement. There was life. There was something waiting to greet each day with me. The birds came.

Each morning, before the tea had finished steeping, I would hear them - the bright, familiar calls of chickadees, the steady tapping of woodpeckers, and, most astonishing of all, the loud, exuberant arrival of the evening grosbeaks. This past winter, there were nearly seventy of them. Seventy. Their presence was impossible to ignore. They descended in a flurry of wings and sound, filling the trees and feeders with their bold energy. They were noisy, vibrant, and gloriously alive. Their bright yellow plumage lit up the winter landscape, flashes of gold against the white snow and grey sky. And their voices - loud, insistent, almost celebratory - broke through the silence of winter as if to declare that life was not only continuing, but thriving.

It felt like a gift each time they arrived, a burst of colour and sound that shifted the tone of the entire day. It is my ritual to stop and watch them. Caregiving requires a steady kind of presence. It is rooted in love, but it can also be deeply tiring - the kind of fatigue that builds quietly when you are always attentive, always responding. There were days when my energy felt thin, when the weight of responsibility was a lot.

But the birds asked nothing of me. They simply came, and in coming, they gave. They gave colour. They gave movement. They gave joy. Watching them became my form of rest - a pause in the day where I could breathe, soften, and simply be. My husband has always been part of this rhythm. For decades now, he has faithfully filled the feeders, and last winter was no different. No matter how deep the snow or how biting the wind, he would bundle up and step outside each morning. I would watch him from the window, making his way across the deck, and feel a deep sense of gratitude. His quiet, consistent act of care made all of this possible. Because of him, the birds returned. Because of him, that joy arrived daily at our doorstep.

And they did return - again and again. The grosbeaks with their brilliance and noise, the chickadees with their fearless energy, the woodpeckers with their steady persistence. Each of them carried something I needed to see. They were resilient. They adapted. They endured the harshness of winter and still showed up fully, vividly alive. Over time, they have become more than visitors. They are companions in the season. They show up each day, no matter the weather. And in their constancy, I saw a reflection of my own life. Caregiving is, in many ways, about showing up - again and again, even when it is hard. And still, like the birds, there can be moments of song.

Even in the coldest days, they sang. By the time winter began to come to an end, I realized how much they had carried me through. For over thirty plus years, we have fed them, but last winter, it felt as though they were feeding me - offering small, steady moments of hope, joy, and renewal. In their bright colours and loud songs, I found a reminder that even in the quietest, most demanding seasons, life continues to call us forward. And sometimes, it arrives with wings.

The next generation

The Haliburton Legion hosted a youth awards night last Friday, where local youth were celebrated for their posters, poems, and essays submitted for Remembrance Day. Pictured are the winners of their categories, which were celebrated at a local, zone, and district levels across the province. Congratulations to the winners. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Editor's note

The teams at the *Haliburton Echo* and *Minden Times* were recognized this past weekend with the official awards ceremony for the Ontario Community Newspaper Association held in Collingwood. Thomas Smith won first place in the heritage category, Emily Stonehouse earned a second place win for best news story, and Steve Galea was celebrated as the Humour Columnist of the Year. *The Haliburton Echo won* first place for General Excellence in their category, and an honourable mention for the *Minden Times* in the same category.

Thank you to our readers, advertisers, and subscribers who continue to support our organization, contributing to one of the best newspapers in the province. We are proud of our community and our efforts, and look forward to continuing to share the stories of the Haliburton Highlands.

Public feedback wanted on the Minden crosswalk plans

The Township of Minden Hills is working with our consultant Engage Engineering and has developed a Pedestrian Crossover concept for Bobcaygeon Road in Downtown Minden.

We are seeking feedback from area businesses, residents and the community regarding the proposed concept. A webpage has been developed that provides details on the conceptual drawings along with a link to the report presented to the March 26, 2026 Council meeting. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/pedestrian.

The community is invited to review the conceptual drawings, details and to provide their questions and thoughts on this plan.

Feedback will be received until May 1, 2026 and is to be emailed to admin@mindenhills.ca. This feedback is valued and provides important information that will be used to report back to council on the public input received.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please let us know.

Submitted

Minden Memories

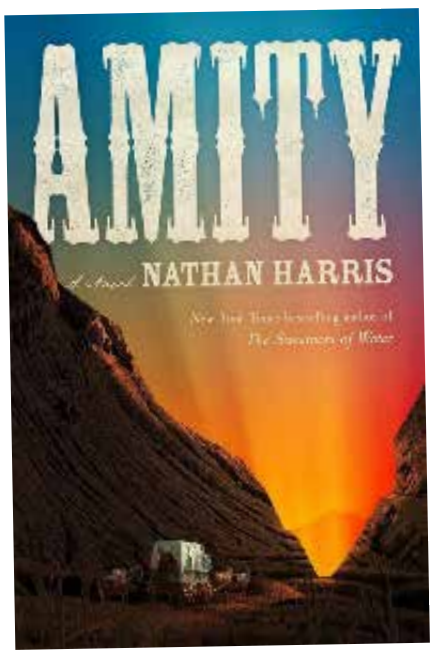
This foursome from the Minden Curling Club includes, from the left, Frank Waters, Lorne Coburn, Dick Kirkwood, and Pete Dollo, captured the Men's League title in 1960-61. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Ice out results

Congratulations to reader Ruth Hunt, who guessed April 19 at 7:36 p.m. as the moment the ice melted from Head Lake. Ruth was accurate, almost to the minute, in her guess, and has earned a full year subscription to the *Haliburton Echo*. Congratulations, Ruth, and thank you to everyone who submitted their guesses this year.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



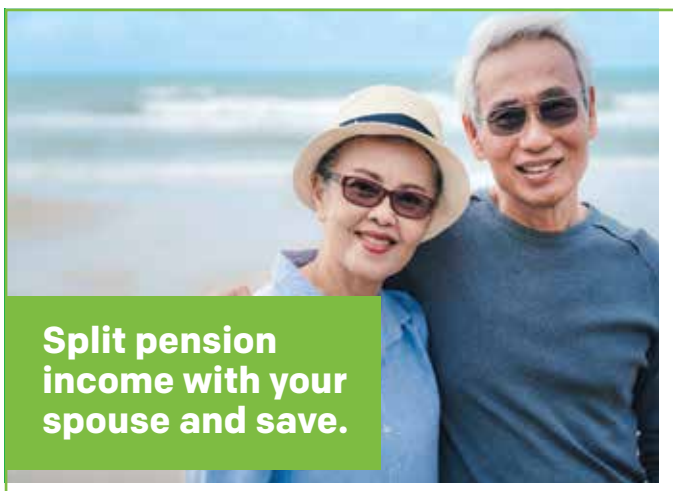
In 1866, in the aftermath of the Civil War, siblings Coleman and June are still searching for the freedom they were promised. Separated when their former master took June to Mexico, Coleman remains in Louisiana, holding on to hope - until a letter arrives, summoning him south and raising the possibility that they might finally be reunited.

But the journey is anything but simple. When disaster strikes, Coleman is forced on the run with his former master's daughter, crossing the Mexican desert in search of June while being pursued by dangerous men. As both siblings navigate peril and uncertainty, they come to understand that freedom isn't always given - it must be taken.

Amity by Nathan Harris is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

A not so silent auction

Camp Medeba in West Guilford hosted their annual Not So Silent Auction on Saturday, to raise funds for the local camp's programming. With a full house, the online and in-person auctions proved successful for the organization. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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Glebe Park Open House

Saturday, May 9, 10:00am–12:00pm

Great Hall
Fleming College – Haliburton School of Art + Design
297 College Drive, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0

Join the Glebe Park and Museum Committee for a presentation on the developments and improvements in Glebe Park over the past years.

Following the presentation, join us for short a tour to see what's new in the Park. Light refreshments served.

have fun be active do it in Dysart et al

www.dysartetal.ca/explore-and-play

Poquito Loco gives it all for one more summer

Owner of Poquito Loco, Claudette Pitre, has announced that they will be closing down operations at the end of the summer. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

"It was a long time coming," said Claudette Pitre, the owner and operator of Poquito Loco in Haliburton. "It's not something we decided overnight."

The restaurant owner took to Facebook on April 15 announcing the closure of the popular spot in the community. "It is difficult for us to write this, but the time has come for us to say goodbye as we prepare to close at the end of summer," said Pitre. "What started as a passion project at the peak of the pandemic grew into something far more meaningful because of all of you."

Pitre shared that she will stay open until the end of summer, and then will figure out her next steps from there.

As for her reasoning for closing, the owner shared there were several factors. Between the rising cost of food, the inconsistency of the winter season, and running into issues acquiring a liquor license through the township, Pitre knew it was time to wrap it up.

Poquito Loco started during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Pitre and her husband, Mark, diving into the project in 2021. "It was something Mark and I put together with the kids," she reflected. "We were sitting around, waiting for the world to open up again. It wasn't good for anyone. We had to do something."

She recalled with warmth how she and her kids, alongside their friends, spent time in the kitchen, taste testing and experimenting with the menu. The first iteration of the brick and mortar restaurant opened in June of 2021, with their current version taking shape at Castle Antiques in 2023.

Now, it's a hustling and bustling hotspot. News of the closure upset the community, with an outpouring of support and love coming in through social media. "Very sad news," reads one user. "You will be missed!" echoed another, adding to the wealth of comments and shares.

Pitre wants the community to know that they will be fully operational throughout the summer, with regular hours in practice. After Labour Day, Pitre isn't sure what comes next for her, but she knows she will be heading to Mexico. "I just love Mexico," she said. "I love the people, I love the culture, and I love the food."

Township of Algonquin Highlands

2026 Municipal Election

Thinking of Running for Council…..Now What?

Free - Candidate Information Workshop

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - 6:30 PM
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129
719 Mountain St. Haliburton

Who Should Attend:

- Potential candidates
- Spouse or partner (family members of potential candidates)
- Anyone interested in learning more about local government

Anyone who is considering running for the role of Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Ward Councillor in any of the County of Haliburton municipalities is invited to attend a free candidate information session.

The information session **"Thinking of Running for Council…Now What?"** will be led by Clerks on Call, municipal management consultants with over 30 years of municipal experience. The session will provide an overview of the understanding the reasons to run—or not run—for council, key considerations before entering the race, the roles and responsibilities of council members and staff, the powers and influence of municipal government, the importance of transparency and accountability, and strategies for engaging with the media and the public.

There is no registration required for in person attendance.

Nominations to run for Council commence on May 1, 2026. Nomination Day is Friday, August 21, 2026 (9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). Municipal Election Day will be held October 26, 2026.

Hosted by Township of Algonquin Highlands, Municipalities of Highlands East and Dysart et al and the Township of Minden Hills

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

To see your not-for-profit or community event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to
HaliburtonSummerGuide@gmail.com
no later than Wednesday May 6

The Echo
County Life
The Times

More than just a cookie for Brooksong Cancer Support

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Mike Garland and Paige Chapman, the managers for the Haliburton and Minden Tim Hortons locations, pose with Maryssa Danilko and Barb Smith-Morrison at the launch of this season's cookie campaign fundraiser. /submitted

This week, running until Sunday May 3, is Tim Hortons' annual Smile Cookie Week. This year, local owners Paige Chapman and Mike Garland of both the Haliburton and Minden Tim Hortons chose Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre to be the recipient of 100 per cent of the proceeds. This is more than a noble cause, because Brooksong is community-based, yet helps hundreds of people with cancer from eight different provinces and their respective caregivers each year, while prioritizing applicants who live here in the county.

This year's partnership for the Smile Cookie Campaign is more than welcome for the registered charity Brooksong, noted executive director Barb Smith-Morrison, because they rely on donor and government support entirely for the life-enriching support they provide for patients living with cancer and their caregivers completely free of charge.

This means that those suffering from cancer, survivors, and their respective caregivers, who cannot afford a retreat which nourishes body, mind, and soul, can benefit tremendously from a top notch, private facility that offers psychosocial care, also known as "whole-person-focused care," says Morrison. "We are quite unique in how well-rounded we are," she added.

Brooksong's doors are open to everyone in the different stages of battling cancer. This includes; during-cancer care, while they are in the midst of treatment; post-Cancer care, a crucial time for anyone who has survived cancer; this is a time when patients need help rebuilding their lives. When people go through cancer, they have to process the worry that cancer may return, explains Morrison, noting that "people's work lives, friend and social circles shift during cancer, sometimes their marriages become strained;" loneliness and re-entering the world can be a real challenge.

They also provide care for those facing end-of-life, helping provide a healing experience in those final days while also providing an opportunity "to think about living and dying well," or what is known in the medical field as "a good death," noted Morrison. This benefits both the cancer patient and their families tremendously, helping to add a sense of closure and peace.

Perhaps most amazingly, Brooksong provides these services to the caregivers as well. Morrison explains that studies show that "outcome for patients is better when caregivers are also supported. Caregiver burnout statistics are significant." Caregivers are taught how to better deal with anxiety and depression. For the cancer patient, this also means they participate in the retreat with their caregiver, helping both to heal, learn, and relax, intune with each other.

As if this wasn't enough, Brooksong recognizes the large disparity within healthcare communities for Black, Indigenous People of Colour (BIPOC) individuals. Some of the challenges, such as scarring outcomes on darker skin-pigmentation and the psychological effects that go along with that, are recognized in the support given at Brooksong.

Morrison is quick to point out that in Haliburton County, we actually can "celebrate all the different 'cancer cares' that are coming, or are already here, in the county." She noted the new initiatives provided by Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), which include the new mammography unit for regular breast cancer checks; offered colorectal checks, hospice, palliative care, and "Papapalooza," for cervical cancer screening. For a community of this size, many important areas are covered closer to home. "We have a lot here for a rural community. Most of us hope for a good death. Brooksong also connects patients with death doulas here in Haliburton; these are people who accompany you and help you prepare for a good death," says Morrison.

All proceeds raised by Brooksong go to providing life-enhancing care to cancer patients, survivors, and care-givers, and paying their facilitators to lead programs, many of whom have been through Brooksong themselves. Volunteers are also a crucial part of the make-up that creates this life changing difference at Brooksong.

Brooksong recently received a Trillium grant to launch an "Alumni Program," which would facilitate care for past patients as they may need it, while continuing to build their community. "Brooksong's retreat changed my life", says one alumni patient, "for four days I was loved and cared for and it shifted my life."

This week, make sure to pop into Tim Hortons, once, twice, three times, or more and buy a Smile Cookie, knowing that you are literally saving and changing lives.

This year, "instead of public cookie decorating, a daily Tim Card giveaways will recognise engaging social media posts as a way to celebrate involvement" says the official press release.

Follow and share to see updates on cookie sales and Tim Card winners throughout the week. On Instagram tag @BrooksongCancerSupport and @TimHortons.HaliburtonCounty. On Facebook, tag: Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Centre and Tim Hortons Haliburton County.

Last year, the Haliburton and Minden locations raised over $22,000 and organisers are hoping to build on that, according to the local media release.

Other ways to support Brooksong include volunteering and one-time or monthly donations. A charitable tax receipt is available for larger donations. Enjoy your cookie and visit Brooksong.ca for more information.

Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE**: Thursday, May 14th, 2026
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom.
  The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2026-003 Petrow & Tancredi

• The following variances are requested to permit a reduced interior side lot line setback and setback to a right of way for a two storey private cabin/private garage on a lot located in the WR4L zone:

a) A variance to section 3.1(e)(v) to permit a private cabin to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 0.95 metres (3.1 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (14.7 feet).

b) A variance to section 3.1(f)(iv) to permit a two storey accessory building to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 0.95 metres (3.1 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (14.7 feet)

c) A variance to Section 3.30(c) to permit a two storey private cabin/private garage to have a minimum street setback from the edge of the travelled portion of Right of Way of 4.2 metres (14 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 7.5 metres (25 feet).

• Location: Part Lot 28 & 29, Concession 11, Plan 19R-186, Parts 2 and 3A, in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
Roll No. 041-000-74505

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

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Food insecurity continues to climb in county

from page 1

expand into additional rural communities. "Food waste is everywhere," she said, "so ultimately, we want to be everywhere."

Tina Jackson, the executive director of the Central Food Network (CFN), based out of Highlands East, voiced her support for the new local food program. "Certainly, we welcome any initiative that makes food more accessible for our community," she said. "Food rescue programs such as Flashfood can be a helpful addition to the range of critical free and low-cost food programs available locally."

Jackson shared that their food bank usage is continuing to increase each year. In the past five years, there has been a 75 per cent increase in the number of individuals the organization supports each year. "Currently, our year to date stats show an average of 276 people from 130 households are needing to turn to our food banks in Wilberforce and Cardiff every month," she said. "Food insecurity exists along a spectrum where some people experience it more deeply and persistently, while others may face it intermittently."

Traditionally, the Central Food Network sees a spike in need over the winter months, with urgency slowing down in the spring, but Jackson noted this is no longer the pattern observed. This past March, the CFN provided 141 families with groceries from the food banks, equating to 221 adults and 79 children served through 417 visits. Of those, 31 households (87 individuals) were served out of Cardiff, and 110 households (213 individuals) were served through Wilberforce. Also over March, 31 hamper deliveries were made by volunteers, 275 meals were made by Community Cooks, and 24,833 pounds of bulk food were picked up, equating to approximately 16,619 meals.

"As the cost of living continues to increase, every little bit truly helps families and individuals stretch their budgets in order to meet their needs," said Jackson. "Having a mix of supports, programs and options is an important part of addressing hunger across the board, while also recognizing that not everyone can afford even heavily discounted food. And ultimately, everyone deserves to have sufficient access to food to meet their needs."

Flashfood is so far only available at Independent in Haliburton locally, but Titus shared that the program has been met with success thus far. "It's been fantastic," she said. "It's also a great opportunity to try something new in the box, so it's really multi-use."

Flashfood boxes start at $5, and are available through the Flashfood app.

A sample of the Flashfood box that Lisa Barry received last week. Barry spent $5 on the box, which included a variety of produce. /submitted

Community asked to report spring turtle sightings

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Many residents have been fortunate enough to spot turtles this past week. As the icons of the Highlands' warmer seasons, the turtles seem to be emerging from their brumation periods.

In the fall, as the weather cools and days become shorter, turtles stop eating and bury themselves in mud.

In the winter, many turtle species can survive for up to five months without oxygen. During this time, the only movement of the turtle is surfacing for water. Even their heart rate slows to a trickle while they rest.

Brumation is not only a survival mechanism for these ancient reptiles, but potentially a key contributor to long-term wellbeing and reproductive health.

As the winter progresses, lactic acid builds up in the turtles, causing them to venture force from their winter's rest when the temperature rises. Lactic acid is the same substance that makes your muscles sore after a good workout.

According to local turtle expert and founder of Turtle Guardians, Leora Berman, turtles need multiple days of temperatures higher than 17 degrees Celsius.

The turtles seek the warmth of basking in the sunlight to reduce the lactic acid in their system.

Recently, many readers have reported that turtles have been emerging from their ponds and basking in the sunlight.

Typically, turtles would be emerging from brumation in early May. Last year, the sightings of turtles were some of the earliest in recent years.

While this is unusual behaviour, Berman says that the exceptional amount of rainfall has led to turtles moving around more, with their preferred habitat being wetlands, they feel safe in the water to move around.

Fortunately, Berman says that the odds of a turtle becoming cold stunned is reduced. In the summer, if the temperature plummets, turtles can become hypothermic, leading to drowning. With the average temperature still being low, the difference in temperature means that turtles are still lethargic.

The increased rainfall is predicted to be a benefit for the turtles. With temperature having a huge factor on the ability of turtles to raise eggs, the increase of water means that turtles will have an easier time manoeuvring through their wetland environments.

Last year, volunteers had to assist with multiple turtles that were suffering from heat exhaustion.

Turtles are exceptionally smart creatures, says Berman. A turtle can recognize its preferred environment, identifying trees, rivers, wetlands, and even buildings where it calls home. Turtles do not cope well with being relocated to new areas. Forced relocation brings stress and is greatly disadvantaged to find food, water, and adequate nesting spots.

Some benefits that turtles bring to waterbodies include gardening the bed of the lake, spreading seeds that protect young fish fry, reduce pathogens in the water, and cycle the nutrients in the lake.

While many turtles can retract themselves within their shell for protection, snapping turtles cannot. That is why they are famous for their extending necks and biting power; it is their only way to defend themselves.

Like humans, juvenile turtles need protein to grow. When fully grown, half of a turtle's diet comes from aquatic plants. A turtle can refrain from eating for months at a time. They are also opportunistic omnivore feeders which humans should not fear when swimming.

"The best thing people can do for turtles is to learn about them," said Berman. "Turtles are intelligent, social, and emotional beings."

Berman estimates that 40 per cent of turtles have been lost in Haliburton County in the past ten years.

As one of the largest researchers of turtle populations in North America, Turtle Guardians runs entirely on support from the community while contributing vital information back to the scientific community.

To better protect turtle species, avoid hitting them if they are on the road. It is against the law to intentionally harm or disturb these endangered species. During the end of May, keep dogs away from known nesting sites.

Learn how to properly handle turtles to help them when crossing the road. Turtle sightings can be reported through their text line 705-854-2888. Calls come to the Guardians from across the world, including the United States and the Czech Republic.

Sightings in the spring help the guardians identify turtle's overwintering areas.

"We've built something really special in the Highlands," said Berman.

In the next three to five years, they hope to build the largest incubation facility and wildlife centre right in Haliburton County.

"They are Haliburton's allies," said Berman. "They are iconic and a part of our heritage."

The Turtle Guardians will be hosting an open house on May 24 and invite everyone to come and visit their location at 235 Highland Street in Haliburton.

Starting June 24, kids aged five to 12 can visit the Haliburton Library on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. to become Turtle Guardians and learn about eight species of turtles over eight weeks.

The Turtle Guardians are in desperate need of volunteers with advanced skills. If you would like to volunteer your time in protecting local turtle populations, please visit their website turtleguaridans.com.

Notice
(Applicant – Balgopal)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 2, Concession 4, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 2 and 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11211, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying completed November 6, 2025** *(Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East)*.

The Plan of Survey 19R-11211 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

A**nd Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 28th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

A Haliburton hoedown

The Wild Honey Hoedown at the Haliburton Legion on Sunday, April 26 saw a full house of dancers and singers, with proceeds going towards the Johnny Burke Foundation. Performers included Louie Reynolds, Jamie Oliver, Christine Vaillancourt, Scott McGregor, to name a few. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Notice
(Applicant – Henderson/Allen)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Koshlong Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026,** 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Firstly: Part of Lot 16, Designated as 66" Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

Secondly: Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in Front of Lot 16, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-11217, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed October 2, 2025.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11217 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

A**nd Take Further Notice** that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 28th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Notice
(Applicant – Thatcher)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Devil's Gap Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 5, Concession 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 7 on Plan of Survey 19R-11060 made by Van Harten - Land Surveyors – Engineers, **completed June 12, 2024.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11060 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 21st day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
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rrogers@highlandseast.ca
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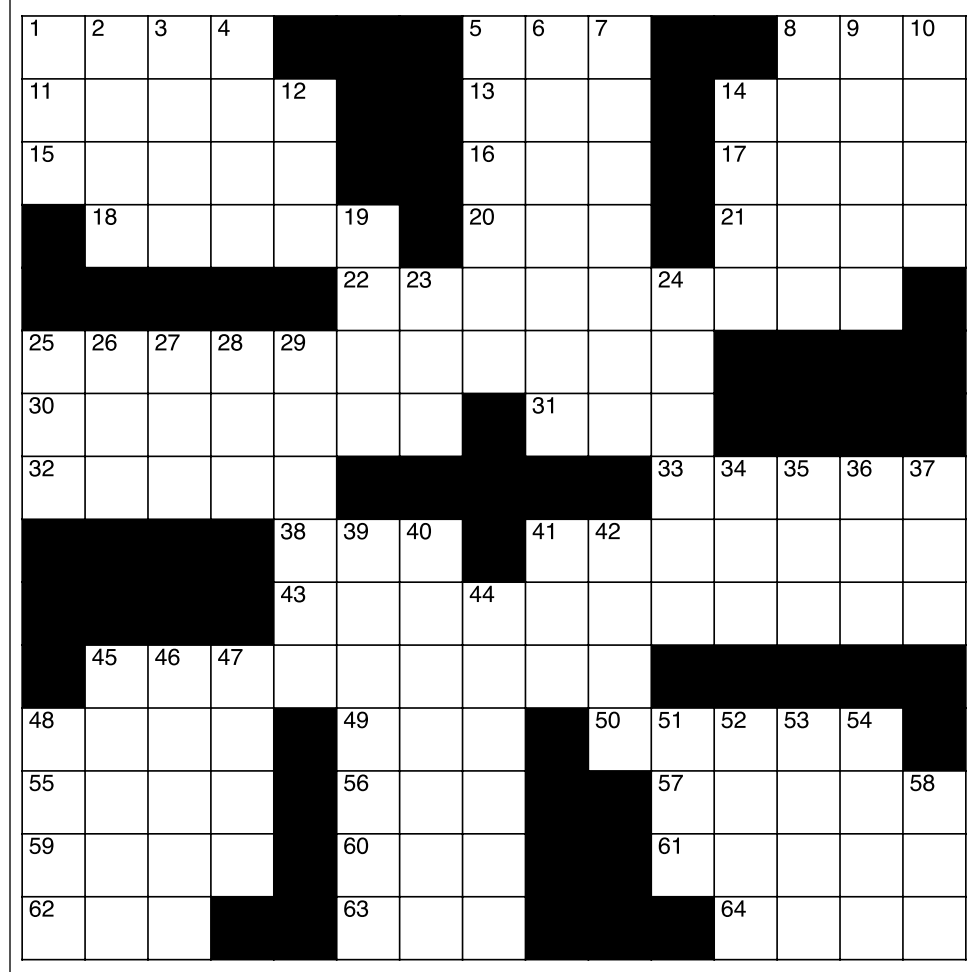
Kwarky

"You haven't trained enough until your spouse threatens divorce."



CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Will Ferrell holiday film
11. 'It Ain't Half Hot Mum' actor
13. Error-related negativity
14. Volcanic crater
15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
16. True market value
17. Italian term for exchange rate
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Children's craft supply
22. Extra benefits
25. In an early way
30. A judge has one
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. Tractor unit
33. Defunct supercomputer developer
38. Promotional materials
41. A forgetful state
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Clergy's vestment
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Abba __, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Ancient Greek word for 'earless'
59. Nigerian governmental area
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Places to hang things
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Romanian river
5. Communication
6. Stoats
7. Showcases
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. Large African antelope
14. Three are particularly notable
19. Meet one's needs
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape a surface
34. Green vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Capital of Brazilian city
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN personality Kimes
44. One who moves slowly
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave by coating
54. North Carolina university
58. Midway between south and southeast

Answers on page 20

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		1	9			6		
5		8	7	6	2			
1	7	4		9			3	6
				7	3			9
				4		8		5
		7				4		8
	8	2		5			6	1
	5				9			3

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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Answers on page 20

NOTICE OF NOMINATION FOR OFFICE
Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 32)

2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the positions listed below must be made on the prescribed form (Form 1) and must include signatures of at least 25 persons (eligible electors within your municipality) endorsing the nomination on the prescribed form (Form 2) (School Board Trustees are excluded from the 25 signature requirement). Nomination forms are available at your local municipal Clerk's Office or on the municipality's website. All Nomination forms must be filed, either in person or by your agent, by appointment, with the Clerk/Returning Officer of the appropriate municipality during normal office hours between May 1, 2026 to Thursday, August 20, 2026, and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day).

The required filing fee for the Head of Council is $200.00 and all other offices are $100.00, cash, debit, certified cheque or money order made payable to the appropriate municipality and must accompany the signed forms. Full details on the procedures to be followed may be obtained from the appropriate Municipal Clerk. Please call the appropriate office to schedule an appointment to file your nomination.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED:

MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (2) Ward 3 (1) Returning Officer – Dawn Newhook **Township of Algonquin Highlands** 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-489-2379 www.algonquinhighlands.ca Email: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca	MAYOR (1) DEPUTY MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Ward 4 (1) Ward 5 (1) Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee **Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca Email: aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca
MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Ward 4 (1) Returning Officer – Robyn Rogers **Municipality of Highlands East** 2249 Loop Road P.O. Box 295 Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0 Tel: 705-448-2981 www.highlandseast.ca/election/ Email: HEelection2026@highlandseast.ca	MAYOR (1) DEPUTY MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR At Large (1) Ward 1 (2) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Returning Officer – Vicki Bull **Township of Minden Hills** 7 Milne Street P.O. Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0 Tel: 705-286-1260 ext. 585 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 www.mindenhills.ca Email: elections@mindenhills.ca

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED

Representing the County of Haliburton with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, Township of Dysart et al Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee **Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 Email: *aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca* Website: www.dysartetal.ca	Representing Sector 1 – Counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Hastings; Cities of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, and the Region of Durham of Conseil scolaire Viamonde. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, City of Oshawa or a local Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer within Sector 1 with delegated authority. **The County of Haliburton Local Municipal Clerk(s)/Returning Officer(s) and municipal contact information is above.** **Or** **City Clerks Services:** **City of Oshawa** 50 Centre Street South, Oshawa, ON Toll Free: 1-800-667-4292 Phone: (905) 436-3311 Email: clerks@oshawa.ca Website:www.oshawa.ca

Brilliant bookstores

This past Saturday, Master's Bookstore joined bookstores across the country in celebrating Independent Canadian Bookstore Day. The day included book bargains, local authors, and a variety of giveaways and sales.

Master's Books owner Kathy Stouffer says the turnout for Independent Canadian Bookstore day was excellent. /IVY KATZ staff

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SIRCH Repair Café heads to Minden Lions Club May 24

Please note: This month's Repair Café will take place on the fourth Sunday (not the usual second Sunday) due to the May long weekend.

There's something deeply satisfying about fixing what you already have.

SIRCH's Repair Café is back for the season - a welcoming space where neighbours help neighbours repair everyday items instead of sending them to the landfill.

Location for May: special location is 166 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Date: Sunday, May 24

Special features this month:

Representatives from the Town of Minden Hills sharing tips on landfill best practices

Barb Fawcett leading a Textile Upcycle and Recycle Workshop

Algonquin Outfitters Bike Tune Up / Repair Clinic with Dave Paddock

From small appliances to household items, our skilled volunteer fixers will do their best to bring your items back to life.

It's a simple way to:

- Save money
- Reduce waste
- Connect with others in your community

Bring something in need of repair — and discover what's possible.

For more information, or if you have questions, please reach out - we're happy to help.

Submitted

Snowflake Meadows Rescue hosts third annual Magical Festival Fundraiser in Minden

Snowflake Meadows Rescue is thrilled to announce the return of its third annaul Snowflake Meadows Magical Festival Fundraiser, a whimsical, family-friendly event supporting animal rescue efforts in the community.

Set against the scenic backdrop of Minden, this year's festival invites guests of all ages to step into a magical experience filled with themed activities, live entertainment, local vendors, and interactive moments designed to spark joy and connection.

Now in its third year, the Magical Festival Fundraiser continues to grow, drawing support from across the region. Proceeds from the event will go directly towards building a kennel by Snowflake Meadows Rescue.

Event Highlights Include:

Petting Zoo
Pet the new Foal
Silent Auction
50/50 Draw
Paint a bus
Puppy play time
Face painting
Pony rides
Cotton candy
Kids games
Bouncy castle
Lure Course
Local vendors
Haliburton OPP
K9 Security Demonstration
and much more

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Location: 1089 Ritchie Falls Road (Snowflake Meadows Rescue)

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Community members, families, and animal lovers are encouraged to attend, volunteer, or support the fundraiser in any way they can.

For more information, please visit snowflakemeadows.com.

Submitted

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GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale. May 2nd and 3rd. 9am to 4pm. 1200 Ritchie Falls Rd. Yard art, tools, and miscellaneous items. Rain or Shine.

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Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. **Contact: 705 457 3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com**

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COMING EVENTS

Municipal Cemetery Spring Clean Up

Please be advised, that the Township of Algonquin Highlands staff will be completing the annual spring clean-up at our Municipal Cemeteries. The clean-up will begin Monday, April 27 and will be ongoing until May 15, 2026.

This clean-up effort will include removal of items that were displaced over the winter and that do not comply the Cemetery By-Law 2025-97, section 4, https://www.algonquinhighlands.ca/media/ywxbu5ki/2025-97-cemetery-rules-and-regulations-acc.pdf

The clean-up helps to ensure the cemeteries remain a safe and accessible space for friends and families to visit. Maintenance Staff will be placing items in the storage bins at each cemetery for the items to be claimed.

All unclaimed items that remain after June 1, 2026, will be disposed of appropriately. Cemeteries are scheduled to re-open May 1, 2026.

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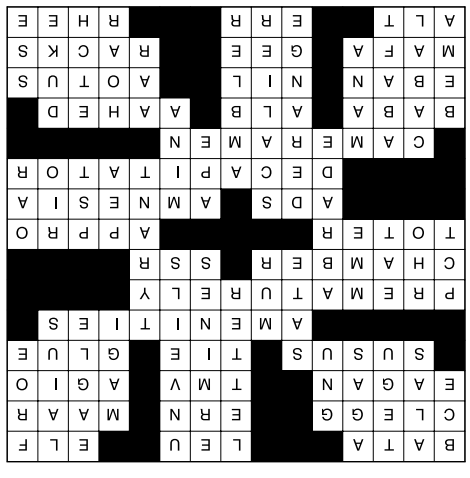

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1	7	4	5	9	8	2	3	6
8	6	5	2	7	3	1	4	9
2	3	9	6	4	1	8	7	5
9	1	7	3	2	6	4	5	8
3	8	2	4	5	7	9	6	1
4	5	6	1	8	9	7	2	3

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Call 705-457-1037
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Friday at 12 pm

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Support your community — apply for a census job! Statistics Canada is hiring in your community for the 2026 Census. Join the census team and help collect the information that shapes programs and services people rely on every day. Census jobs offer flexible, short-term employment and the chance to contribute to data collection activities. Census information is used to plan programs and services that support employment, education, public transportation and health care. Key facts There are approximately 32,000 census jobs available across Canada. Pay is $25.87 per hour for non-supervisory positions and $31.32 per hour for supervisory positions, plus authorized expenses. The time frame for census jobs is between March and July 2026 depending on the position and location. You must be available to work flexible hours including days, evenings, and weekends. Join the 2026 Census team for meaningful work and community impact! Apply now: census.gc.ca/jobs.

Environmental Technician –Water Quality and Aquatic Plant Surveying Student Work Placement

Are you passionate about the environment and keen to make a difference at the community level?

U-Links is looking for an enthusiastic, self-directed individual to work with our community-based research and field team. Under the supervision of the U-Links Program Coordinator, you will play a pivotal role in supporting the Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch program. We are looking to hire an individual to perform water quality monitoring and aquatic plant surveys on upper-watershed lakes in Haliburton County. The purpose of the monitoring and surveys is to collect water quality data, inventory the aquatic plants on these lakes and identify any invasive aquatic species that may be present. Training on the sampling protocols and aquatic plant identification will be provided.

The ideal candidate will:

1. Be in a post-secondary program in the field of environmental technology, environmental sciences, biology, ecosystems management or a similar field, and be returning to school in the same program in the fall.
2. Have field knowledge of water quality monitoring and/or aquatic plant monitoring or other ecological monitoring protocols.
3. Understand how to use a GPS device in the field and how to integrate collected data with GIS data.
4. Be comfortable working in a boat and around water.
5. Have reliable access to a vehicle and a valid driver's license.
6. Have strong written and oral communication skills.
7. Have strong attention to detail and critical thinking skills.
8. Have knowledge of environmental research practices, and an ability to remain cognizant of changing environmental issues related to Haliburton County.
9. Be competent with Microsoft Office applications and with social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Duration: This position is a 16-week, pending funding, beginning in May and ending before September.

Compensation: $22.50/hour + mileage + vacation pay.

For a full job description and more details go to www.ulinks.ca

Email a detailed cover-letter and resume to admin@ulinks.ca , by May 8th at 23:59 EST. Applications will be assessed and interviewed as applications are received. We recommend applying early.

Applicants must be an active student enrolled in an accredited Canadian po st-secondary institution. This job is open to students who hold Canadian citizenship, Canadian permanent residency status, or Canadian refugee status. Priority will be given to female students in STEAM fields, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, Indigenous students, first-year students, and recent immigrants. The student is not required to be in a formal co-op program with the post-secondary institution. Work/Study permit holders do not qualify. We thank all those interested in this position. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires:

One (1) GIS Technician (12-month contract)
The GIS Technician is responsible for the development, compilation, and analysis of GIS data. The successful applicant will possess related post-secondary education and two (2) years of related experience. The hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $35.06.
Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca
no later than **May 8, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Two (2) GIS – NG911 Data Supports (17-week contract)
The GIS – Next Generation 911 Data Support position assists in the development, validation, and maintenance of GIS datasets that support Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency services by refining civic address point data. Successful candidates will possess education or experience with GIS software such as ArcGIS Pro. The 2026 hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $21.28.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca
no later than **April 30, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed posting and job description information.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

Environmental Technician – Water Quality and Aquatic Plant Surveying

Are you passionate about the environment and keen to make a difference at the community level?

U-Links is looking for an enthusiastic, self-directed individual to work with our community-based research and field team. Under the supervision of the U-Links Program Coordinator, you will play a pivotal role in supporting the Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch program. We are looking to hire an individual to perform water quality monitoring and aquatic plant surveys on upper-watershed lakes in Haliburton County. The purpose of the monitoring and surveys is to collect water quality data, inventory the aquatic plants on these lakes and identify any invasive aquatic species that may be present. Training on the sampling protocols and aquatic plant identification will be provided.

The ideal candidate will:

1. Either completed or be engaged in post-secondary education (environmental studies, environmental sciences, biology, or similar disciplines
2. Have some field knowledge of water quality monitoring and/or aquatic plant identification
3. Understand how to use a GPS device in the field and how to integrate collected data with GIS data
4. Be comfortable working in a boat and around water
5. Be able and willing to drive to Haliburton County
6. Reliable access to a vehicle is required.

Duration: This is an 8-week contract from July 6thth to August 28th, 2026.
Compensation: $22.50/hour + mileage + vacation pay.

For a full job description and more details go to www.ulinks.ca

Email a detailed cover-letter and resume to admin@ulinks.ca , by May 8th at 23:59 EST
Applications will be assessed and interviewed as applications are received. We recommend applying early.

This position is funded by Canada Summer Jobs. must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or person granted refugee status in Canada, be eligible to work in Canada and be between the ages of 15-30 (inclusive) at the start of employment. International students, and those who are here in Canada on a work, youth, or visitor visa/permit are not eligible for the program. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Full job description at https://www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

COOPER: Orval Cecil

Born April 29, 1931 at Maple Lake, ON passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026 at Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital.

Orval was the beloved husband of Brenda (née Ferguson) for 51 years. Loving father to Steven (Brenda), Bradley (Sharon), John (Janet), and Mark (Diane). He was a proud and devoted grandfather to Warren and Mariah, Lucas and Riley, and Marci and James, he was also blessed with seven great-grandchildren. He is survived by his dear sister Yvonne and will be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Orval was predeceased by his siblings William and Lola.

A dedicated and hardworking man of a reputable company co-founded with his life partner Brenda. He was a true pioneer known for his strong work ethic and for setting exceptionally high standards in his profession, leaving a lasting legacy through his work and leadership.

Orval will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his integrity, and the impact he made on those who had the privilege of knowing him.

A visitation and funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 29th on what would have been his 95th birthday, at the Beacan Presbyterian Church, Beaverton visitation from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation and would be appreciated by the family.
Orval will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all whose lives he touched.

In Loving Memory of

Arvo Joseph Kaasalainen

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital with his family at his side on Wednesday, January 14, 2025, in his 90th year.

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital with his family at his side on Wednesday, January 14, 2025, in his 90th year.

Beloved husband for 65 years to Barbara (nee Gillies). Dear father of Paul and Diana of Canning Lake, John and Dawn of Barrie, Steven and Sharon of Burlington. Loving grandpa of Travis, Chrissy, Jason (Megan), Autum, Andrew, Aaron, Geoffrey, Kursten and great grandpa of Indiana, Isla and Wesley. Dear brother of the late Ernie and Karlo; survived by their children Randy, Danny, David and Sheila. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Friends are invited to Celebration of Arvo's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

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Construction could start this autumn

by Andrew Milne

The hospital board is starting to look a lot like it's building hospitals.

Local residents may see the foundations in the ground as early as this fall.

On Thursday, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board announced the hiring of the consultant, architect, and project manager for the capital building project to refurbish and replace hospital facilities in Minden and Haliburton.

In the same meeting the board approved the document called the 'functional plan', which lays out the timetable and other critical details of construction — that plan is now enroute to the Ministry of Health for final approval.

A project that has wended a long, tortuous route through local politics and the Queen's Park bureaucratic maze, in simpler terms, may soon be made manifest in bricks and mortar.

The board's timetable calls for a staged building process, in which the foundations are dug as early as this fall. The consultants say they can accommodate that schedule.

Consultants W.M. Salter and Associates — a firm with experience in long term care facilities, and which recently assisted in the integration of two formerly separate facilities in Parry Sound — will oversee the project, in association with architect Henry Lowry, whose experience is more in acute care. The board's project manager, Bob Savage, has previous experience working on projects with Salter and Associates.

Executive director Foster Loucks made the announcement with evident pleasure, introducing Millet Salter of Salter and Associates to the board, the public, and the media, with a small flourish.

Chair Hugh Nichol stated at the beginning of his mandate that getting the spades into the ground with all possible haste should be the board's first priority. Now that looks like it may happen this fall, and he's pleased.

Said Nichol Thursday, "I feel we're getting a lot closer. There's a lot left to do, but we're closer... I had one question for the candidates we interviewed for this position, and that's can we get this started by this fall, and Millet told us very directly he thinks it can be done."

Salter, speaking to the board Thursday, said that his firm is excited to be working on the project, and that ideally the process will evolve from here as a highly interactive one, in which the board, its employees, and the consultants work closely and constantly together, refining the plans in continual fashion.

"We aren't going to come to you with the solution, and everyone sees in a flash that that's it, that's what we're doing. That's not how it works. It's going to be a constant process, an iteractive process, where we bring something to you, you tell us what you think, we take it back, work on it, and bring it to you again, and together, we'll try to get to that best possible solution... We aren't coming in here as experts, with all the ideas, coming in from outside to tell you what you have to do... You tell us what your problems are, the way you see them, and we'll help you solve them."

Salter expressed considerable confidence in the architect. Said Salter, "Henry Lowry is in my opinion as knowledgeable of acute care as

(more on page 2)

LOOK OUT, BEHIND YOU!!

The giant inflatable gorilla featured in the Lions Club District Convention parade Saturday, appears to be lunging for several of the marchers on Minden's Main Street. In fact, a gust of wind had momentarily blown the figure over. The gorilla, an entry from the Dunsford and District Lions Club, was one of many colourful floats taking part in the parade. For more from the parade, please turn to page 3.

Community Centre could be the place to be as new century dawns

Items from the April 24 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden municipal council.

Turn of the century

Doug Johnson attended Thursday's meeting of council to ask about rental of the Minden community centre for New Year' Eve 1999. Johnson said he knows the Minden Fire Department has traditionally booked the centre for New Year's Eve events, but he said that if, for any reason, the fire department decided not to book the facility, he would like to have first chance.

"I'd like to see a really creative event for the turn of the century," Johnson said.

He noted that one idea would be to have a 10-hour event with one hour representing each decade of the past 100 years.

"It's something to think about," he told council.

Later in the meeting, Fire Chief Bill Hogg said that the fire department isn't likely to give up the facility.

"It's our big fund-raiser of the year," he told council.

Rescue van tender

Ridgewood Ford will supply the Minden Fire Department with a cab and chassis, which will be transformed into a rescue van. Cost of the cab and chassis will be $31,200, including taxes.

Councillor Grant Plooard noted that the tender included PST (provincial sales tax). Fire emergency vehicles are exempt from PST and although the unit won't officially be a fire emergency vehicle until the box and equipment are installed by a company specializing in that type of work, an effort will be made to see if the cab and chassis qualifies for the exemption.

Ridgewood Ford was the only local dealer to supply a tender.

It will take eight to 10 weeks to deliver the cab and chassis, which will then go to be fitted with the emergency equipment. Fire Chief Bill Hogg said he couldn't say when the finished unit will be put into service.

MAPSA can't deal with parking violators

Members of the Minden Area Police Support Association (MAPSA) have told councillor Grant Plooard, who rep-

(more on page 4)

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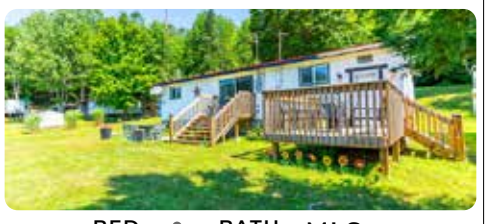

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-C. Nilsson, Google Review

A big thank you goes to Linda Baumgartner and her team for their expert advice and service. Linda was a pleasure to work with and was professional and knowledgeable in handling the sale of our cottage. We can fully endorse Linda Baumgartner and her team for their integrity, honesty and commitment to our sale.

-S. Webb, Google Review

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